

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

May 11, 2021

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

May 12 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Ms. Jocelyn Swain
Development Services
Department City of Lancaster
44933 Fern Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93534

RE: TPM No. 82208
Vic. LA-14 PM R67.42
SCH # 2021040342
GTS # LA-2021-03551AL-MND

Dear Ms. Swain:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The proposed Project consists of the subdivision of 20 acres into 75 single family residential lots in the R-7,000 zone.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has been codified into CEQA law. It mandates that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed developments be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts. As a reminder, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after the July 1, 2020 statewide implementation date. You may reference The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) website for more information.

<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>

In July 2020, the City of Lancaster adopted standards and thresholds for analyzing projects with respect to vehicle miles traveled (VMT). A series of screening criteria were adopted and if a project meets one of these criteria, a VMT analysis is not required. These criteria are: 1) project size - generates fewer than 110 trips per day; 2) locally serving retail commercial developments of 50,000 square feet or smaller; 3) project located in a low VMT area - 15% below baseline; 4) transit proximity; 5) affordable housing; and 6) transportation facilities.

The project site is located within a low VMT area; specifically, this area has a VMT which is at least 15% below the Antelope Valley Planning Area (AVPA) threshold. As such, a VMT analysis is not required and no impacts would occur.

This development should incorporate multi-modal and complete streets transportation elements that will actively promote alternatives to car use and better manage existing parking assets. Prioritizing and allocating space to efficient modes of travel such as bicycling and public transit can allow streets to transport more people in a fixed amount of right-of-way.

Caltrans supports the implementation of complete streets and pedestrian safety measures such as road diets and other traffic calming measures. Please note the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognizes the road diet treatment as a proven safety countermeasure, and the cost of a road diet can be significantly reduced if implemented in tandem with routine street resurfacing.

Also, Caltrans has published the VMT-focused Transportation Impact Study Guide (TISG), dated May 20, 2020 and Caltrans Interim Local Development Intergovernmental Review Safety Review Practitioners Guidance, prepared on December 18, 2020.

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/transportation-planning/office-of-smart-mobility-climate-change/sb-743>

For this project, transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials, which requires the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways, will require a transportation permit from Caltrans. It is recommended that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods and idle time not to exceed 10 minutes.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2021-03551AL-MND.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong for

MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse